

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Continuation of Serial No. 08/946,524

Applicant(s) : Tomoko TERAKADO et al.

For : INFORMATION PROVIDING APPARATUS AND
METHOD, DISPLAY CONTROLLING
APPARATUS AND METHOD, INFORMATION
PROVIDING SYSTEM, AS WELL AS
TRANSMISSION MEDIUM

Filed : Herewith

Examiner : R. Brown

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New York, NY 10151

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action in the above-identified application, please
amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 8, 11-13, and 21-25 by rewriting the same as follows:

--1. (Amended) An information providing apparatus, comprising:

hierarchizing means for hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program;

first providing means for providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information; and

second providing means for providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen.

8. (Amended) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said hierarchizing means determines that information of the electronic program guide information which is changed between key station broadcasting and local station broadcasting as the first information and determines that information of the electronic program guide information which is not changed as the second information.

11. (Amended) An information providing method, comprising the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program; providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information; and providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen.

12. (Amended) A transmission medium for transmitting a program, the program including the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program; providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information; and providing layout information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen.

13. (Amended) A display controlling apparatus, comprising:

first acquiring means for acquiring, from within electronic program guide information hierarchized into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program, at least one of the first information and the second information;

second acquiring means for acquiring layout information of the electronic program guide information regarding a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

producing means for producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

21. (Amended) A display controlling method, comprising the steps of:

acquiring, from within electronic program guide information hierarchized into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program, at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information regarding a layout of the electronic program guide information when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

22. (Amended) A transmission medium for transmitting a program, the program including the steps of:

acquiring, from within electronic program guide information hierarchized into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program

and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program, at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information regarding a layout of the electronic program guide information when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

23. (Amended) An information providing system, comprising:

hierarchizing means for hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program;

first providing means for providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information;

second providing means for providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen;

first acquiring means for acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

second acquiring means for acquiring layout information of the electronic program guide information regarding a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

producing means for producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

24. (Amended) An information providing method, comprising the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program;

providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information;

providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen;

acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information of the electronic program guide information regarding a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

25. (Amended) A transmission medium for transmitting a program, the program including the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program; providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information; providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information; acquiring layout information of the electronic program guide information regarding a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are presented to continue prosecution of aspects of Applicants' invention.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, 11-13, and 21-25 for clarification. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**" It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 USC sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants

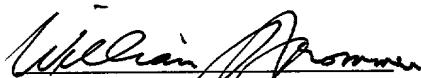
are entitled. The features defined by the presented claims are fully disclosed in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter is presented.

An early examination on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:



William S. Frommer
Reg. No. 23,506
(212) 588-0800

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 8, 11-13, and 21-25 by rewriting the same as follows:

--1. (Amended) An information providing apparatus, comprising:

hierarchizing means for hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program;

first providing means for providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information; and

second providing means for providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen.

8. (Amended) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said hierarchizing means determines that information of the electronic program guide information which is changed between key station broadcasting and local station broadcasting as the [second] first information and determines that information of the electronic program guide information which is not changed as the second information.

11. (Amended) An information providing method, comprising the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program; providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information; and providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen.

12. (Amended) A transmission medium [which transmits] for transmitting a program, the program including the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program; providing at least one of the hierarchized first information [or] and second information; and

providing layout information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen.

13. (Amended) A display controlling apparatus, comprising:

first acquiring means for acquiring, from within electronic program guide information hierarchized into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for

general information on said program, at least one of the first information and the second information;

second acquiring means for acquiring layout information of the electronic program guide information regarding a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

producing means for producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

21. (Amended) A display controlling method, comprising the steps of:

acquiring, from within electronic program guide information hierarchized into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program, at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information regarding a layout of the electronic program guide information when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

22. (Amended) A transmission medium [which transmits] for transmitting a program, the program including the steps of:

acquiring, from within electronic program guide information hierarchized into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program, at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information regarding a layout of the electronic program guide information when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

23. (Amended) An information providing system, comprising:

hierarchizing means for hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program;

first providing means for providing at least one of the hierarchized first information [or] and second information;

second providing means for providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen;

first acquiring means for acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

second acquiring means for acquiring layout information of the electronic program guide information regarding a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

producing means for producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

24. (Amended) An information providing method, comprising the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program;

providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information;

providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen;

acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information of the electronic program guide information regarding a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

25. (Amended) A transmission medium [which transmits] for transmitting a program, the program including the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program;

providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information;

providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen;

acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information of the electronic program guide information regarding a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.--

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09/844354
04/27/01



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Examiner : R. Brown
Art Unit : 2711

745 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10151

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Date of Deposit: April 27, 2001

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Charles J. Jones
(Typed or printed name of person
mailing paper or fee)
Charles J. Jones
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action in the above-identified application, please
amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 8, 11-13, and 21-25 by rewriting the same as follows:

--1. (Amended) An information providing apparatus, comprising:

hierarchizing means for hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program;

first providing means for providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information; and

second providing means for providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen.

8. (Amended) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said hierarchizing means determines that information of the electronic program guide information which is changed between key station broadcasting and local station broadcasting as the first information and determines that information of the electronic program guide information which is not changed as the second information.

11. (Amended) An information providing method, comprising the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program; providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information; and providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen.

12. (Amended) A transmission medium for transmitting a program, the program including the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program; providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information; and providing layout information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen.

13. (Amended) A display controlling apparatus, comprising:

first acquiring means for acquiring, from within electronic program guide information hierarchized into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program, at least one of the first information and the second information;

second acquiring means for acquiring layout information of the electronic program guide information regarding a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

producing means for producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

21. (Amended) A display controlling method, comprising the steps of:

acquiring, from within electronic program guide information hierarchized into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program, at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information regarding a layout of the electronic program guide information when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

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acquiring layout information regarding a layout of the electronic program guide information when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

23. (Amended) An information providing system, comprising:

hierarchizing means for hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program;

first providing means for providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information;

second providing means for providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen;

first acquiring means for acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

second acquiring means for acquiring layout information of the electronic program guide information regarding a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

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24. (Amended) An information providing method, comprising the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program; providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information; providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information; acquiring layout information of the electronic program guide information regarding a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

25. (Amended) A transmission medium for transmitting a program, the program including the steps of:

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REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are presented to continue prosecution of aspects of Applicants' invention. Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, 11-13, and 21-25 for clarification. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**" It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 USC sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants

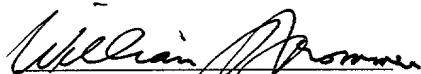
are entitled. The features defined by the presented claims are fully disclosed in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter is presented.

An early examination on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:



William S. Frommer
Reg. No. 23,506
(212) 588-0800

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Please amend claims 1, 8, 11-13, and 21-25 by rewriting the same as follows:

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first providing means for providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information; and

second providing means for providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen.

8. (Amended) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said hierarchizing means determines that information of the electronic program guide information which is changed between key station broadcasting and local station broadcasting as the [second] first information and determines that information of the electronic program guide information which is not changed as the second information.

11. (Amended) An information providing method, comprising the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program; providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information; and providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen.

12. (Amended) A transmission medium [which transmits] for transmitting a program, the program including the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program; providing at least one of the hierarchized first information [or] and second information; and

providing layout information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen.

13. (Amended) A display controlling apparatus, comprising:

first acquiring means for acquiring, from within electronic program guide information hierarchized into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for

general information on said program, at least one of the first information and the second information;

second acquiring means for acquiring layout information of the electronic program guide information regarding a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

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first providing means for providing at least one of the hierarchized first information [or] and second information;
second providing means for providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen;
first acquiring means for acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

second acquiring means for acquiring layout information of the electronic program guide information regarding a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

producing means for producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

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providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information;

providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen;

acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information of the electronic program guide information regarding a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen; and

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information.

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providing at least one of the hierarchized first information and second information;

providing layout information from within the electronic program guide information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is to be displayed on a screen;

acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

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